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Civil Rights

Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

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that they certainly will not be solved without the substantial upward salary adjustments recommended in this bill.

The crime rate in the Nation's Capital is a national disgrace. The safety of the nearly 800,000 residents of the District and the millions of our citizens who visit the Capital each year demands that the Metropolitan Police force and the Fire Department be brought up to and maintained at full strength as promptly as possible. To do this, the District must occupy a favorable competitive position salarywise vis-a-vis the suburban jurisdictions of the Washington metropolitan area and other major cities of the Nation. Title I of the bill will provide this sorely needed advantage.

In previous reports this committee has voiced its support for programs that will attack the roots of crime in the District of Columbia. In your committee's judgment, title II of the H.R. 15131 represents a major stride toward that goal. A great effort is underway to renew rejuvenate, and enhance the quality of public education in Washington. There is much talk of making the education of children in the Nation's Capital a model for the rest of the Nation. This cannot and will not come to pass unless the massive turnover rate of teachers in the District's school system is stopped. The District of Columbia can no longer afford to be a training ground for neighboring suburban school districts. Washington must be placed in a position not only to retain its experienced educational staff but to attract a new breed of teachers who are willing and able to teach effectively amidst the difficult conditions of a restless and growing city.

In your committee's judgment, it is absolutely certain that this will not be done unless the District is able to compete for staff with a superior salary scale. The lesson of the past is a clear one. It may be possible to attract a few highly motivated, well-qualified teachers to one of the most difficult teaching jobs in the Nation for the same money they could earn in more affluent communities, but it is clearly unrealistic and unreasonable to expect many such teachers to enter more demanding work for the same or less money.

In the committee's judgment, the salary levels proposed in title II of H.R. 15131 are both realistic and reasonable. They will give the District of Columbia Board of Education the advantage it must have to improve the quality of instruction in the schools. They help recognize the teacher's high place in the scale of community values. This investment in the educational system is a necessary fundamental step. Good teachers foster good citizens.

It is in this spirit that your committee recommends H.R. 15131, as amended, to the Senate for prompt passage.

The title was amended, so as to read: "An act to amend the District of Columbia Police and Firemen's Salary Act of 1958 to increase salaries, to amend the District of Columbia Teachers' Salary Act of 1955 to increase salaries, and for other purposes."

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. WILLIAMS of Delaware. Mr. President, will the Senator yield?

Mr. MANSFIELD. I yield.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Delaware. Mr. President, on the calendar are Calendar Nos. 1024 and 1025, together with No. 934, the purpose of which is to dispose of certain items in the stockpile. I wonder whether they could be brought up today and acted upon.

Mr. MANSFIELD. No. They will not be brought up today because we have the

conference report on the supplemental appropriation bill, the school-lunch program, and other matters which we would like to consider at this time.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Delaware. The reason I ask is that two of those measures pertain to magnesium and beryl. I understand that there is no objection to accepting the amendment that I have pending at the desk to sell those materials at a competitive bid. I understand that is the intention of the Department, anyway—and I assume it has no objection—and perhaps those measures could be disposed of in 5 minutes.

Mr. MANSFIELD. I would be delighted to do so, after I speak with the distinguished Senator from Missouri, who is in charge of these bills.

Mr. President, if I may, I would like to be recognized for 5 or 6 minutes, to complete a statement which I believe might bear interest to the Senate as a whole.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection it is so ordered.

STATUS OF PENDING LEGISLATION

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, the Nation is in the throes of a soul-searing experience. We are as a house on the verge of dividing against itself.

We grope for some urgent and adequate response in this tragedy, some instant solution. So far as the Senate is concerned, it has even been suggested, for example, that the brief recess which had been announced for the Easter period be cancelled for this purpose. A recess seems a small matter, and is, in a situation which looms so large. In the circumstances, I think we need to be clear as to what is involved in the so-called Easter vacation. As planned, the Senate is scheduled to go out this Thursday night and return the following Wednesday. Since the Senate would not meet, in any event, on Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter Sunday, what is involved in the recess, therefore, are 2 days, Monday and Tuesday of next week.

May I say that if I thought it would help to advance significantly the work on legislation which is related to the events of the past week, the leadership would urge the Senate to remain in session from dawn to dusk on those 2 days and even this weekend. There would be no curfews on the meeting of the Senate if it would help. The fact is, however, that there is no such prospect. If the Senate were to meet, it would meet for talk and, of talk on this matter there has already been a surfeit. The Senate would not have before it on Monday or Tuesday next any legislation of consequence. To make the point clear, let me list the status of the principal pertinent measures which are now pending:

First. The Senate amendments to H.R. 2516, the bill which would provide protection against interference with civil rights, fair housing, punishment for incitement to riot and firearms control, and a "bill of rights" for Indians, are before the House, and will be voted on, I understand, today.

Second. Today, the Senate is going to take up the conference report on the ur-

gent supplemental bill which, when passed by the Senate, included an additional \$25 million for Headstart and \$75 million for manpower development and training activities—both of which were dropped in conference—and hopefully will be restored on the floor with a rejection of the report as it now stands.

Third. On the Senate Calendar is H.R. 15398, reported by the Senate Agriculture Committee, extending the pilot school breakfast program for 2 years and authorizing an appropriation of \$6.5 million for each of these two fiscal years which it is hoped will be disposed of before the recess.

Fourth. The Senate Committee on the Judiciary ordered reported on April 4, with the report to be filed by April 14, the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act which will provide over \$100 million in fiscal 1968 and 1969 and \$300 million in fiscal 1970 for grants to law enforcement agencies for recruiting and training, grants for riot control and organized crime, and court-approved wiretapping.

Fifth. Before the Committee on Labor and Public Welfare is an extension and expansion of the Juvenile Delinquency program and a bill to provide a broader based Equal Employment Opportunity program, amendments to the Higher Education Act, the Partnership for Earning and Learning Act, and the Migrant Labor and Health Act, all of which are of relevance.

I have just been informed that the committee has called a meeting for April 24 on the Health Act and the extension of Equal Employment Opportunities.

Sixth. The Committee on Agriculture and Forestry is expected to take action soon on a bill to increase the authorization for the food stamp program.

Seventh. The excise tax extension action which is now in conference includes several amendments relating to welfare programs providing aid to families with dependent children, the medicaid-buy-in program, and the unemployed fathers program.

Eighth. I have just been informed that a housing bill may be reported out of Committee on Banking and Currency on April 18.

The list which is by no means exhaustive is indicative of the kinds of measures which have been recommended by the President and which bear upon the situation.

It would be my hope that in the case of measures which are before Senate committees, the committees would convene during the next few days or as soon as possible to complete their consideration. All of these measures, in my judgment, are of significance. All of them, in my judgment, should come before the Senate for disposition during the current session.

However, the leadership will not engage in charades. It will not bring the Senate into session to give the appearance of urgent action where there is no prospect of action. To do so, would do no justice to the gravity of the inner problems which confront this Nation. The fact is that we do not have 2 days of urgent work on the problems which have

been so grotesquely silhouetted against the flaming wreckage in the Nation's cities. The fact is that we have weeks, months, years of relentless and painful work. It would be well, therefore, for the Senate to use this weekend, this most significant weekend, to contemplate the damage which has been done to this Nation both at home and abroad. It would be well to begin to steel ourselves for the effort which lies ahead if this Nation is to be knit together again in a new and enduring unity.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the statement I made on the floor of the Senate on Monday last, entitled "A Time of Crisis," interrelating the urban unrest, Vietnam, and the dollar problems, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

A TIME OF CRISIS

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, we live in the most troublous period in the history of the Republic, and we have perhaps passed through the most significant 7 days of our lives. We must consider, I believe, three major problems at this time, so that we can keep our views in perspective.

The first is the question of urban unrest, which is now so prevalent throughout our land.

I would express the hope that the House very shortly—I recognize the fact that that is its responsibility—would pass the civil rights bill passed by the Senate several weeks ago. I would hope, also, that the Senate, in its appropriate committee, would report the equal opportunities employment bill, which has been under consideration for more than a year.

I am glad to note that the Committee on the Judiciary has reported the safe streets bill, but I understand that because of a time limitation to allow various points of view to be annotated, it will not be and could not be brought up until after the Easter recess.

Mr. President, I recognize that laws and appropriations alone are not the answer in the field of urban unrest. I believe that part of the answer lies in a greater participation on the part of private industry in facing up to this problem which confronts all of us. I feel, also, that a greater degree of responsibility on the part of our citizens is mandatory. I feel, also, that there must be a respect for law and order on the part of all of us, and it is my belief that this is vitally necessary if we are to regain our self-respect.

The second factor of importance is the question of Vietnam. I would hope that, in view of the President's speech on Sunday a week ago, and on the basis of events since then, all of us, regardless of our personal views, would give him our full support in his endeavors to bring about an end to that barbaric conflict.

So far as the holding of the conference which may be in the offing is concerned, it really is immaterial where it will be held; but if I may express a personal wish, it would be my thought that inasmuch as this is an Asian problem, perhaps a good site would be Rangoon, in Burma, or Phnom Penh, in Cambodia.

The third factor is the instability of the dollar—and may I say that we cannot dissociate the urban unrest, Vietnam, or the last mentioned factor. I would hope that the House would pass the Senate-approved bill which imposes a 10-percent surcharge tax on income tax payments, a \$10 billion reduction in the budget, and a \$6 billion reduction in the field of expenditures; or, if this is not possible in conference, that the House would

report a measure with a comparable degree of fiscal restraint.

All three momentous crises must be faced now and action must be taken, even though it will not provide overnight solutions. The measures recommended above will provide only a start, but a good and necessary start.

Mr. President, let all of us forget our own political futures, personal and partisan, and do what must be done for the common good and the survival of the Nation. All else is of little consequence. If the President can make the sacrifice which he has made, I believe Congress can join him in making the necessary sacrifices to see that this Nation is once again put on an even keel.